

PRESS RELEASE

# Matthew Nelson Appointed Chairman of Department of Public Utilities

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Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Public Utilities

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**BOSTON** — Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Matthew Beaton today announced that Matthew Nelson has been appointed Chairman of the Department of Public Utilities. Nelson replaces outgoing Chairman Angela M. O'Connor who departs following a four year term.

“Chairman O’Connor has been a valued member of our team, and under her leadership the Department of Public Utilities issued a landmark order approving a new solar compensation structure, implemented nation-leading measures to ensure the safety of rideshare users, and played a pivotal role in modernizing electric rate design in the Commonwealth,” **said Secretary Matthew Beaton**. “I look forward to working with Matt who is not only well versed in the Department’s commitment to ensuring ratepayers receive the most reliable utility service at the lowest possible cost, but who also shares the Baker-Polito Administration’s commitment to continuing the Commonwealth’s leadership in energy efficiency, clean energy, and reducing carbon emissions.”

“I want to thank Governor Baker, Lieutenant Governor Polito, and Secretary Beaton for the wonderful opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Department of Public Utilities,” **said Chairman O’Connor**. “The professionals at Department of Public Utilities have worked tirelessly towards a number of key initiatives including working with utilities to ensure that they continue to make investments in infrastructure and deploy cost-effective technology that benefit ratepayers and contribute to meeting our environmental goals. I am certain that Matt has the ability and drive to lead the Department, and I wish him all the best as he works to continue the Department’s goals of ensuring public safety and providing reliable and affordable energy for the Commonwealth.”

Under Chairman O’Connor’s leadership, the Department of Public Utilities addressed important matters including the modernization of the electric grid, the passing of utility federal tax savings back to ratepayers, the compensation of owners of new solar projects, and the strengthening of consumer protections for competitive electric supply sales. Additionally, during Chairman O’Connor’s tenure, the Department implemented one of the most comprehensive ride-for-hire laws in the country in an effort to prioritize public safety and thorough background checks.

“I am excited to take on this new role in the Baker-Polito Administration, and look forward to working with Secretary Beaton and my colleagues at the Department of Public Utilities executing energy policy, ensuring public safety, and ensuring that utility costs are as competitive as possible for ratepayers,” **said Matt Nelson**. “I thank Secretary Beaton, Governor Baker, and Lieutenant Governor Polito for asking me to serve as Chairman of the Department, and I am eager to continue the work initiated under Chairman O’Connor on

our national leading energy policy within the structure of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.”

## **Matthew Nelson, Chairman, Department of Public Utilities**

Matt Nelson assumes the role of Chairman having worked for the Department for eight years, most recently as the Director of Electric Power and Regional and Federal Affairs where he played key roles in overseeing investments in grid modernization, general rate case issues, renewable energy development, climate strategies, competitive supply, and management of storm restoration issues. During his time in state service, Matt has also played an instrumental role in developing comprehensive energy legislation that requires state utilities to solicit long-term contracts for 1,200 megawatts of hydropower and 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind energy.

Prior to public service, Matt spent four years at Eversource Energy as the Supervisor of Regulatory, Policy, and Planning as part of the MassSave Initiative – a nationally recognized public policy initiative that has succeeded in helping the Commonwealth achieve its environmental goals as well as reduce costs for Massachusetts ratepayers, and those across New England.

Nelson is a graduate of Stonehill College, and holds a Master’s degree in economics from Tufts University.

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## Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

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EEA seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. Through the stewardship of open space, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

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## Department of Public Utilities (/orgs/department-of-public-utilities)

The DPU oversees investor-owned electric power, natural gas, and water companies in Massachusetts. In addition, the DPU regulates the safety of bus companies, moving companies, and transportation network companies. We also oversee the safety of natural gas pipelines.

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